

Serial No.: 10/500,404
Art Unit: 2617

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2, and replaces the original sheet of drawings. In Fig. 2, the configuration of the nodes has been corrected.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Figures 1 and 2

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to sheet with Figures 1 and 2

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending. Claims 1-8 have been amended for clarification only and are self-supporting. Claims 9 and 10 have been added to enhance the scope of patent coverage and are supported by page 5, line 24, through page 6, line 7, of the specification as filed.

Claims 11 and 12 have been added to enhance the scope of patent coverage and are supported by page 5, lines 13-17, of the specification as filed. Claims 13 and 14 have been added to enhance the scope of patent coverage and are supported by original claims 1 and 2. Claims 15-18 have been added to enhance the scope of patent protection and are supported by page 5, lines 13-17, page 5, line 24, through page 6, line 7, and page 7, lines 2-10, of the specification as filed (and, also, MPEP § 2163.07(a)). It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Amendment of the Specification

The title has been replaced with a more fully descriptive title. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended on page 8, lines 17-21, for clarification and to correspond to amended drawing figure 2. This amendment to the specification is supported by page 8, lines 22-27, and elsewhere in the specification as filed. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Amendment of the Drawings

Drawing figure 2 is presented to clarify the relationship of the nodes to the communication nodes with respect to the mobile node. This amendment is supported by page 8, lines 17-21, of the specification, as well as elsewhere in the disclosure. This corrected figure 2 has already been filed in and accepted by the Japanese Patent Office for a counterpart patent application. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 6,148,198, in view of Cohen, U.S. Patent No. 5,465,390.

The Patent Office rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Cohen, and further in view of Hronek, U.S. Patent No. 6,564,055.

All of the cited references, Anderson, Hronek and Cohen, disclose well-known cellular networks; where each of the mobile stations (nodes) communicates each other via the base

station, whereas the present invention does not relate to such a cellular network but relates to a short-range mobile radio technology.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, there are no base stations, and each of the mobile nodes communicates with each other nodes directly without employing a base station or a base node, so that there is one type of node only, that is, a mobile node.

For example, at least the following feature of the present invention is not included in Anderson: "counting the number of overlaps between a communication zone of one of the specified nodes and communication zones of other specified nodes for each specified node;"

In Anderson, the overlap counter is updated based on iteration process, which has a maximum limit and the overlap counter is used for checking where the iteration process needs to be stopped or not –if the maximum threshold is exceeded (see fig.3 and column 7 lines 4-13).

The overlap counter does not tell anything about "the number of overlaps between a communication zone of the identified node and communication zones of the other identified nodes" as recited by the claimed invention.

In fact, the overlap flag in Anderson is either set or not set, and it is thus impossible in Anderson to even count "counting the number of overlaps between a communication zone of one of the specified nodes and communication zones of other specified nodes for each specified node." Neither Cohen nor Hronak remedy this deficiency as neither of these two references discloses or suggests counting "counting the number of overlaps between a communication zone of one of the specified nodes and communication zones of other specified nodes for each specified node."

Such being the case, the claimed invention is not made obvious by the three cited references in structure, alone or in combination. One of ordinary skill in the art could not achieve the claimed invention based upon the cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on either Anderson and Cohen or Anderson, Cohen, and Hronek have been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the Patent Office reconsider and remove the rejections of these claims. The Patent Office is respectfully requested to favorably consider and allow all of the pending claims 1-18 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-18 is earnestly solicited.

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10/26/2007

Date

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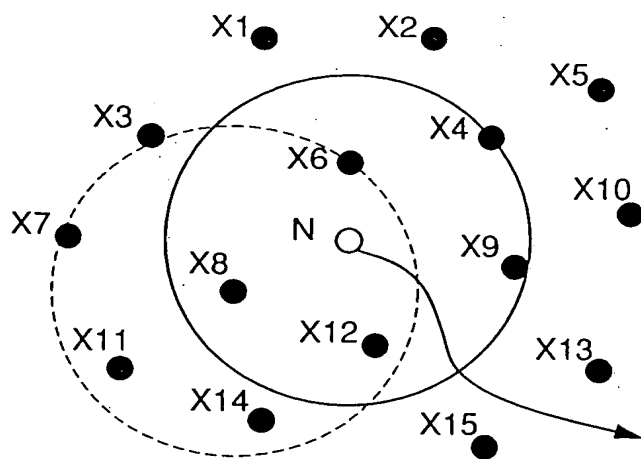


FIG. 1

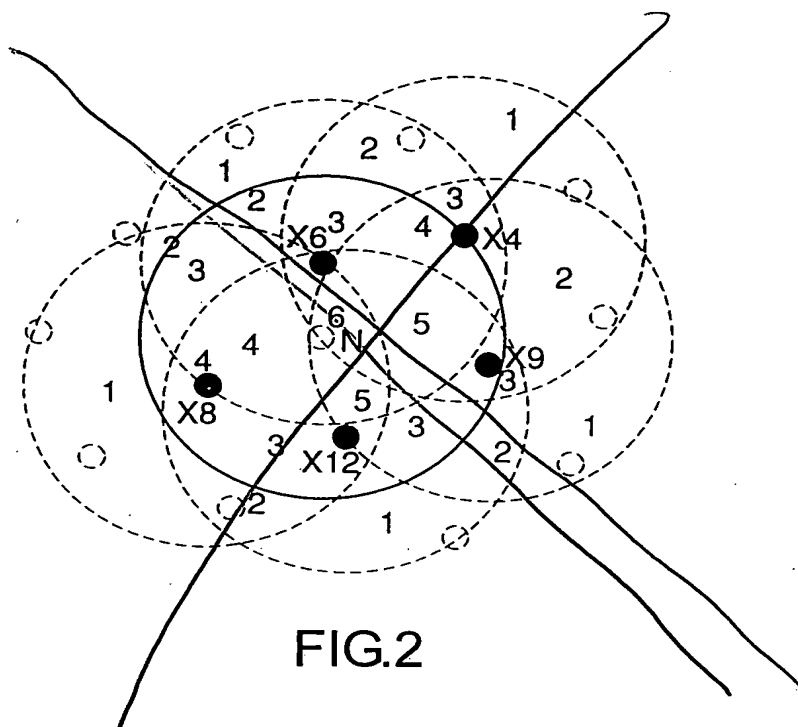


FIG. 2